

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be entered at least because they are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 8-11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 7 and 12 have been amended. Support for the amendments to independent claims 7 and 12 can be found at least in original claim 11, and in the specification, on page 11, line 13 to page 13, line 20. No new matter has been added.

Claims 7 and 11 are pending.

Claim objections

Claim 11 was objected to for an informality. This objection is moot with respect to claim 11, which has been cancelled. With respect to independent claims 7 and 12, which have been amended to include features from claim 11, these claims have been further amended to address the issue raised in the Office Action.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2, 5 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,991,010 to Nishio ("Nishio") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,735,705 to Egbert et al. ("Egbert"). Claims 6 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Nishio in view of Egbert and U.S. Patent No. 5,761,575 to Kimoto ("Kimoto"). Claims 3 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Nishio in view of Egbert and U.S. Patent No. 6,961,136 to Ogura et al. ("Ogura"). These rejections are moot with respect to claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8-10, which have been cancelled.

Moreover, these rejections are also moot with respect to independent claims 7 and 12, which have been amended to include features from claim 11, which was not rejected, and thus

presumably contains allowable subject matter. Thus, claims 7 and 12 are believed to be in allowable form.

Specifically, claim 7 (with a corresponding amendment to claim 12) has been amended to include the features “an image forming unit which forms an image corresponding to the image data provided from the image processing unit onto a paper, the image forming unit including a fixing unit in which a toner image formed on a paper sheet is fixed on the paper,” and “a power supply control unit which stops power supply to the photoelectric conversion unit and the fixing unit when the image forming apparatus is not used for a long time.” With these features the power consumption of the photoelectric conversion unit can be reduced and the lifetime of the photoelectric conversion unit can be made longer by the image forming apparatus recited in amended claim 7. The references cited in the rejection of the claims fail to disclose or suggests such a combination of features, or their attendant advantages.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 23, 2008

By Thomas G. Bilodeau

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 945-6162
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Pavan K. Agarwal
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 40,888

Thomas G. Bilodeau
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,438